

# "L" HEARING RULED BY TRACTION TRUST WIRELESS HUNT FOR LOST AVIATOR GRACE

WEATHER—Rain or snow to-night and Saturday.

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**NIGHT EDITION**

**The**



**World**

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## CONVICTION OF KIDNAPPERS LOOSENS GRIP ON THE CITY OF BLACK HAND TERRORISM

Quick Verdict Against Patenza Christmas Gift to People, Says Judge Fawcett.

WILL GET LONG TERMS.

"Death Sign" Given Maria Rappa Shows How Criminal Band Rules.

The excellent work of Deputy Commissioner Flynn's detectives in rounding up the kidnapping gang that stole Giuseppe Longo and Michael Rizzo has been rendered doubly effective by the action of the two Brooklyn juries in convicting Maria Rappa and Stanislaw Patenza. As Judge Fawcett, in the Kings County Court, remarked last night to the jury in the Patenza case, nothing in the records of Jersey justice or criminal prosecutions in England has produced a more speedy and satisfactory result than these two trials in Brooklyn.

Judge Fawcett, whose life has been threatened frequently by friends of desperate criminals, shares with other Brooklyn jurors the belief that only by the infliction of severe sentences on the "Black Hand" system he wiped out. It is quite likely that he will give Patenza the limit, fifty years, and that Maria Rappa's sentence will be almost as severe, for she was ready to confess, but was deterred by fear of assassination in the courtroom.

The desperate character of the Black Hand kidnappers is revealed by the threat of murder which reached Maria Rappa, and an attempt to kill her in the courtroom would probably have been made had she confessed. Several of the sinister men in the silent, attentive audience gave her the "Death sign" while she was on her way to trial and sealed her lips. The "Death sign," a quick passage of the hand across the throat, is frequently passed in New York courtrooms at the trials of Italian criminals.

"You have given the people of New York a Christmas present," said Judge Fawcett to the Patenza jury. "Your verdict and the Rappa verdict are, in my opinion, the hardest blows that have been struck at the so-called Black Hand since these criminals began operating in this country."

Reared in Fear of Black Hand. A dramatic feature of the Patenza trial was the forceful denunciation of the Black Hand by the defendant on the stand. Patenza said he had been reared to fear the Black Hand, that he came to America to escape it, that it is an organization of desperate men who make their living without working.

"Show your hands to the jury," commanded the District Attorney. Patenza knew what that meant. He hid his hands behind his back, but he had to show them to the jury. They were soft and plump, like the hands of a woman, betraying his laborer's garb.

In discharging the jury Judge Fawcett said: "Gentlemen, I congratulate you most heartily on this very splendid verdict. You can realize the effect your action will have on the dastardly gang of villains to which this man belongs. I know as a fact that there was a confession made by Maria Rappa, the woman who was convicted before me on Tuesday for kidnapping, in which this man Patenza was named as the leader of the gang that has kidnapped small boys.

## DR. COOK THOUGHT HE THOUGHT THAT HE FOUND POLE

He's Going to Spend All His Years Convincing America He Believed Own Yarn.

From a temporary refuge in the house of his brother, Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the self-confessed perpetrator of the greatest feat of modern times, today told an Evening World reporter over the telephone that he intended to devote his life to convincing the American people that he really thought he discovered the North Pole.

When Dr. Cook arrived last night, on the steamship George Washington, in the midst of tumult among his fellow passengers, he announced that he would go to the Waldorf-Astoria to occupy the same suite of rooms that he had fifteen months ago after he came back in triumph, from Denmark, with a lovely story of imaginary achievements.

But it would seem that Cook finds it as hard to tell the truth in small matters as in large ones. While troops of anxious inquirers scoured the corridors of the hotel looking for him and peering the half-distracted clerks with vain questions, he was tucked away in the home of William L. Cook at No. 749 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn.

Dedicated to Convincing Folk.

A maid told all callers at the door that Dr. Cook was not in, but the newspaper men found little trouble in inducing him to answer a request for a telephone interview.

"There isn't much that I care to say now," said Dr. Cook, answering questions over the wire. "I will have a formal statement to give out late this evening, when I come over to the Waldorf."

"Are you going to stay in this country?" "Certainly I am," said the Doctor, with a rising inflection, "most certainly I am. I never had any other intention than to return to my native land. I am an American citizen, entitled to protection under the American flag, and I expect to claim that protection. My wife and my two children, who are now abroad, will shortly rejoin me and we will make our home here."

"Are you going on a lecture tour?" "I am not," said Dr. Cook. "During the last twenty years, most of which were spent in exploration, I amassed a great quantity of scientific material. I expect to settle down and prepare that material for use. But my main endeavor will be directed to making my fellow countrymen feel that I was in good faith when I claimed that I had reached the pole and that I really believed I had attained my object. To that purpose I expect to dedicate myself."

And then Dr. Cook rang off.

## CHILD FATALLY BURNED TRYING TO HELP MOTHER.

Girl of Three Thought She'd Get the Supper, and Her Clothes Caught Fire.

Myrtle Josephine Beck, three years old, died today at her home, No. 221 Lake street, Newark, of burns she received yesterday while she thought she was helping her mother at supper.

## MAN AND WOMAN FOUND IN HOTEL DYING FROM GAS

Both Wore Expensive Clothing and Jewelry, but Had Nothing to Identify Them.

HURRIED TO A HOSPITAL.

Registered Last Night as "Mr. and Mrs. George Collins, New York."

A man of about thirty and a woman of a few years younger, both well dressed and well supplied with money and jewelry, were taken this afternoon from the Borough Park Hotel, Thirty-ninth street and New Utrecht avenue, Brooklyn, to the Norwegian Hospital. They were dying from gas poisoning. Both were unconscious and the surgeons were unable to revive them in the hospital.

The couple arrived at the hotel at 11 o'clock last night. They carried several bundles but no luggage. The man registered, "Mr. and Mrs. George Collins, New York." Before being assigned to a room the young man left a call for a chambermaid knocked at their door. There was no response, nor was there any odor of gas in the hallway at that time.

Eugene Tria, proprietor of the hotel, gave orders to let the couple sleep. Shortly after noon another chambermaid smelled gas while passing through the hallway. She attempted to open the door of the room, but it was locked and bolted. A porter got into the room through a window. The man was found senseless on the bed. His companion had crawled to the door and lay with her head on the doorknob.

The man wore a handsome fur coat, a diamond ring, a diamond stud and a gold watch and chain. The hands of the young woman were covered with rings. In the man's wallet there was \$50 and in the young woman's purse about \$25, but neither had any letters or cards to indicate who they were.

## MONDAY IS CHRISTMAS BY LAW IN RHODE ISLAND.

Saloon-Keepers Who Wanted to Keep Open Raised Question and Court Decides Point.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 23.—Monday, Dec. 26, is legally Christmas Day in Rhode Island, according to a decision handed down today by the full bench of the Supreme Court. The Court was asked to decide the question by George Pothier, under the protest of the Worcester saloon-keepers that according to law they could not be ordered to close on Monday.

The statute provides that all saloons shall close on Christmas Day, and the dealers declared that Monday was not Christmas Day.

## \$1,883 FOR BEATING GIRL.

Wall Street Broker Must Pay Verdict of Lower Court.

HARRY LARRELL, a young Wall Street broker, who was sued by Miss Edith Laurie, formerly his fiancée, for beating her, will have to pay the judgment for \$1,883 with a jury in the lower court awarded the girl last May. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court this afternoon denied Larrell's appeal.

Miss Laurie, the adopted daughter of a wealthy merchant in New Orleans, sought to recover \$25,000 damages, claiming Larrell beat her with his fists. Before this suit Miss Laurie sued Larrell for breach of promise, but lost.

## \$25,000 FIRE IN NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 23.—In a fire today in Baronne street, between Lafayette and Poydras, three large business houses were destroyed with losses estimated at \$25,000. The Standard Theatre was slightly damaged. The drug store which suffered the heaviest losses was the Union Furniture Company, E. P. Hansen & Co., stationers, and Schwartz, Elias & Company, furnishings.

## Striking View of Child Stealer Whom a Jury Quickly Convicted



## SHOWER OF PUFFS POURS UPON COURT AND LOOTED GIRL

Did Shirt Waist Workers Get Her Hair? They Did, and Here It Is.

Sans puffs, sans rat, sans switch and with only a very sparse tangle of her own truly hair left to clutch her head, Miss Fannie Frank, forewoman of a shirtwaist factory in West Twenty-seventh street, appeared before Magistrate Kernochan in Essex Market Court today and asked that Freida Troppe, of No. 29 East Broadway, be sent to jail for at least fifty years.

"She's a striker," said Miss Frank with passion, "and she attacked me with a dozen fingers, calling me 'beast' and threatening to tear me to pieces. There were eight more like her, and what they didn't get of my hair couldn't break loose."

There was an outburst of shrill feminine laughter from the rear of the courtroom. The prisoner joined in, but was silenced by the gavel.

"Did you pull this shaggy lady's hair out?" asked the Magistrate.

"Sure I did," replied the striking shirtwaist girl proudly. "I got all her puffs I could get my fingers on. Somebody else got her rat and another somebody got her switch. I'd do it again, Judge. I'd just as lief scalp her. She's a 'beast'."

"What became of your false hair?" the court asked Miss Frank.

## DEAD OF POISON AS SHE COULDN'T READ THE LABEL

Woman Shows Daughter How to Take Medicine but Uses Wrong Bottle.

As a result of showing her eleven-year-old daughter how to take her medicine, a woman took a teaspoonful of what was supposed to be enough medicine. Mrs. Josephine Barone, aged forty-five, of No. 271 Second avenue, died this afternoon.

The Barone family, consisting of the parents and eight children, are engaged in making willow plumes. Today Freida Troppe of No. 29 East Broadway, who was charged with the case, said she had poured from a bottle which stood on a shelf near other bottles, all of which looked alike. She objected.

"See, I'll show you how easy it is to take it," said the mother as she drank the stuff. It had hardly passed her lips when she fell to the floor in convulsions. The mother had got hold of the wrong bottle and had swallowed an acid which is used to brighten up plumes.

Policeman Kinnelty of the East One Hundred and Fourth street police station summoned an ambulance from the Harlem Hospital, but before it arrived Mrs. Barone was dead. There was a poison label on the bottle Mrs. Barone had used, but as it was printed in English the husband, Dominick, explained to the police she could not read it.

## \$10,000 ALIMONY TOO MUCH. Appellate Court Cuts Mrs. A. G. Wheeler's Allowance to \$6,000 a Year.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in a decision made today reduced from \$10,000 to \$6,000 a year the alimony allowed Mrs. Claudia T. Wheeler, pending her suit for separation against Albert G. Wheeler, a member of the banking firm of J. B. Russell & Co., No. 81 Wall street.

## WARSHIPS SEARCH SEA FOR MISSING AVIATOR GRACE

Autos Scour Land, but No Trace Found of Former New Yorker Lost in Flight.

WIRELESS USED IN HUNT.

Believed to Have Drowned in the North Sea While Seeking Way to England in Fog.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—There was no news this afternoon of the fate of Cecil S. Grace, the American-born aviator, who disappeared in the fog while attempting a return flight from Calais, France, to Dover yesterday. It is feared that he fell into the North Sea. A great fleet of motor boats were out all night and today searching every nook of the east coast of England, while warships scattered along the shores and dotting the North Sea swept the waters with wireless inquiries concerning the aviator. These futile efforts were continued today.

Grace went out for the Baron de Forest prize of \$25,000 offered to the British aviator who in a British-made aeroplane shall cover the greatest distance including the passage of the English Channel during the present year. P. T. Sopwith had set a mark of 174 miles. Gramme-White prepared for the competition, but met with a serious accident before he could get under way.

The days during which the record of Sopwith might be eclipsed were few, and Grace decided to make the try yesterday in the face of adverse weather conditions. A heavy fog hung over the Channel and obscured the aviator soon after he ascended at Calais. He crossed the Channel safely, and two hours and a half from the start passed over Calais. He reached the Belgian frontier and was going fast after Sopwith's figure when he encountered adverse winds that compelled him to turn back. He alighted west of Calais, and at 2:10 o'clock again ascended, pointing his aeroplane toward Dover.

Lost in the Fog.

Grace was seen once more enveloped in the fog that had become more dense. These who saw the start say he took a northeasterly course. It is evident that he lost his bearings, for had he had his proper directions he would have reached Dover without trouble. For he had the power and his aeroplane must have behaved well. Instead of arriving at Dover, however, he was sighted later far to the northeast over the Goodwin Sands, the exceedingly dangerous shoals that extend off the southeast coast of England some seven miles east of Deal.

At this point the air man made a grave mistake in his reckoning, for with land but a few miles on his west he veered to the east and when seen was heading over the North Sea. At this point he was swallowed up by the fog and since then, except for the negative inferences to be deduced from the absence of news, nothing whatever has transpired to throw light on his whereabouts.

A false report that he had landed at Deal for a time cheered anxious friends, but when this was disproved every possible resource was expended to find him.

The warships and merchant vessels along the east coast were instructed to keep a sharp lookout, but their wireless exchanges were all of the same tone—nothing seen of the aviator. Meantime

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

"Curb" Prices  
This is not a statement of the prices of "cure" stocks, but a suggestion to "cure" or lower the prices you pay for Xmas presents—anything from a Christmas dinner to a house and lot.

## MONOPOLY'S FRIENDS QUICK WITH DEFENSE AT "L" GRAB HEARING

Public Service Board Hears Opposition to Perpetual Franchises for Third Tracks Refuted by the Traction Trust's Adherents.

## CITY'S SURRENDER IN TRANSIT PROBLEM SHOWN

Bronx People for Proposition, Brooklyn and Queens Oppose Grant Without New Concessions—East Side and Bowery Want Less Instead of More Overhead.

The hearing room of the Public Service Commission was crowded today with people from the Bronx interested in having a fast ride to their work through the heart of the east side and a group of lawyers and railroad officials interested in aiding the gift to the traction ring of perpetual franchises for the third-tracking of the "L" roads and eighty-five-year franchises for the elevated extensions.

Charles F. Mathewson, the lawyer who fought 50-cent cars, occupied a seat in the front of the room after exchanging greetings with Commissioners Wilcox, Bassett, Matting, Eustis and McCarron.

General Manager Frank Hedley of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company and James L. Quackenbush, counsel for that corporation, were present, besides attorneys and officials representing both the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company and the Hudson and Manhattan Railroad Company.

Woodruff Wants Relief.  
"As a member of both the Long Island Real Estate Exchange and the Queensboro Real Estate Exchange," said former Lieutenant-Governor Timothy Woodruff, "I am here to insist that some action be taken in the interest of that portion of the public which wants something done to relieve present intolerable transit conditions. I am willing for one to have the Interborough deliver passengers at the Queens Borough end of the Steinway tunnel."

George S. Coleman, counsel to the commission, made formal announcement of the decision of the Interborough, under an arrangement with the New York Central Railroad Company, to use the Putnam Division bridge over the Harlem River for the Ninth avenue line and not the Macombs Dam bridge.

If the latter bridge had been used, it was strongly suspected this would be merely a shuttle service between One Hundred and Fifty-ninth street and One Hundred and Forty-ninth street, where it was proposed the extensions for Jerome avenue should leave the main line.

Commissioners Relieved.  
This announcement was greeted with a round of applause from the Bronx residents, while the members of the commission looked at each other with relieved expressions.

Many of those from the Bronx who spoke for the third-tracking were recognized as having made the same speeches many times before the old Rapid Transit Commission.

James J. O'Brien, Chairman of the Transit Committee of Queens, was the first voice raised against the project. Mr. O'Brien wanted the granting of "L" franchises made conditional upon the Interborough's guaranteeing to extend the Second avenue "L" not only across the Queensboro Bridge but for six or eight miles out into Long Island. He also insisted that the Interborough be made to guarantee the Steinway Tunnel be extended also into Queens.

Commission Knew Friends.  
As all of the speakers had previously handled in their names to Chairman Wilcox, the Commission was early in a position to recognize its friends in the crowd.

Mr. Woodruff was promptly called upon to refute the argument of Mr. O'Brien. After acknowledging that he had attended the meeting particularly to offer the remarks of Mr. O'Brien, he said that the interests he represented were willing to not transportation at the front door, and would be willing to waive the extensions across Queens for the present.

"I am opposed to the granting of these franchises," said M. E. Sheehan of the Twenty-eighth Ward Board of Trade, Brooklyn, "for the reason that the commission is giving away for nothing perpetual franchises and seeking to get around the charter provisions which prohibit the granting of a franchise for longer than twenty-five years. Instead of having the city control these most valuable privileges, you are seeking to turn them over to the railroads."

Bowery Opposes More Tracks.  
George E. Mott of No. 23 Nassau street, who said he represented the banking interests of the Bowery, spoke in opposition to having the number of tracks increased in that thoroughfare. He said that if the present tracks were removed great buildings would soon be erected.

Prof. Edward P. Bemis, for many years associated with Mayor "Tom" Johnson of Cleveland, and since being forced out of the Water Department employed by a "Franchise Conference" organized among members of the City Club, delivered the star address of the hearing.

While he spoke the members of the commission looked uneasy, for Mr. Bemis, as he read his address, looked first at one and then at another.

Here is what Mr. Bemis said in part: "Profit of \$1,551,000 Sure."

"A statement of the Interborough Company shows that there has been during the past six years an increase of 800,000 passengers on the elevated and subway lines, or an average of 130,000 a year. If the company's own assertion of the proposed ordinance would increase the annual travel on the elevated lines fifty per cent, or 65,000,000 passengers per year.

"The increased travel predicted by the company within the next three or four years as the result of these extensions will give them a profit of \$1,551,000 in addition to 6 per cent on their estimate of \$2,000,000 cost of the extensions. The profit will be still greater if, as is likely, operating expenses and taxes do not increase in proportion to increase of business."

"This monopoly profit is also in addition to a payment to the city of two per cent on the entire increase of operating revenue."

"Three fundamental criticisms of these proposed franchises must be made:—

"1. They fail to prevent an increase of franchise value to the existing tracks from the extension of the new tracks.

(Continued on Second Page.)

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